

Message Text

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47

ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-10 IO-03 AF-04 SP-02 NSC-07

NSCE-00 SAM-01 L-02 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00

RSC-01 PM-03 DODE-00 SAJ-01 DRC-01 /068 W

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R 161535Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2902

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USUN NEW YORK 615

S E C R E T RABAT 3913

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PBOR MO SS

SUBJECT: SPANISH SAHARA; GOM OFFICIAL'S COMMENTS

1. SUMMARY. FON MINISTRY SECY-GENERAL SKALLI SAID DURING MY AUG 16 COURTESY CALL THAT IN MADRID TALKS BOTH GOM AND GOS STAKED OUT THEIR INITIAL POSITIONS. SPAIN INDICATED READINESS TO LEAVE SAHARA AND INTENTION TO HOLD REFERENDUM. GOM-GOS DIALOGUE NOT BROKEN OFF, BUT SOMEONE, PRESUMABLY SPAIN, MUST INDICATE WILLINGNESS TAKE "NEW INITIATIVE" BEFORE TALKS COULD BE RESUMED. SKALLI CONCLUDED THAT TIME RIPE FOR US TO ASSERT INFLUENCE ON MADRID. END SUMMARY

2. FON MIN SECY-GENERAL ALI SKALLI RECEIVED ME FOR COURTESY CALL AUG 16, DURING WHICH SPANISH SAHARA WAS MAIN TOPIC OF CONVERSATION. SKALLI UNDERLINED THAT SAHARA WAS CRUCIAL TEST

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FOR MOROCCAN FOREIGN RELATIONS; POSITIONS TAKEN BY VARIOUS

COUNTRIES WOULD SHOW MOROCCO WHO ITS REAL FRIENDS WERE.

3. ON MAURITANIA, SKALLI COMMENTED THAT GOM HAD "TURNED A PAGE" IN RECOGNIZING THAT COUNTRY; GIRM NEED HAVE NO FEAR HENCEFORTH ABOUT MOROCCANS REVIVING OLD CLAIM TO ITS TERRITORY. "BUT HOW CAN A COUNTRY THAT HAD NOT EXISTED PREVIOUSLY HAVE TERRITORIAL CLAIMS?" HE ASKED RHETORICALLY IN RE SAHARA. SKALLI ALSO NOTED THAT ALGERIA HAD NO TERRITORIAL CLAIM VIS-A-VIS SAHARA.

4. SKALLI REFERRED TO "IDEOLOGICAL TRENDS" IN AREA WHICH ANTI-U.S. SUCH TRENDS COULD EVENTUALLY DOMINATE AN EMPTY AND WEAK INDEPENDENT STATE IN SAHARA. SKALLI DID NOT SEE SUCH A DEVELOPMENT AS BEING IN U.S. INTEREST.

5. I REMARKED THAT FON MIN LARAKI, WHOM I HAD MET AT AIRPORT ON HIS RETURN FROM U.S., HAD GIVEN IMPRESSION HE HAD HAD GOOD VISIT IN WASHINGTON. SKALLI CONCURRED, ADDING THAT KING HASSAN STRONGLY IN FAVOR OF CONTINUING RELATIONSHIP WITH U.S. BASED ON COMPLETE UNDERSTANDING, FRIENDSHIP, AND COOPERATION.

6. RESPONDING TO MY QUESTION, SKALLI SAID RECENTLY CONCLUDED MADRID TALKS HAD BEEN USEFUL. MOROCCO AND SPAIN HAD PRESENTED THEIR POSITIONS QUITE FRANKLY AND HAD AIRED THEIR "DIRTY LINEN." I ASKED WHAT POSITION SPANISH SIDE HAD TAKEN. SKALLI REPLIED SPANIARDS HAD SAID THEY WERE PREPARED TO LEAVE SAHARA AND INTENDED TO HOLD REFERENDUM. HOWEVER, SKALLI IMPLIED, GOS POSITION ON REFERENDUM WAS NOT APPRECIABLY BETTER, FROM MOROCCAN VIEWPOINT, THAN PREVIOUS PUBLICLY ESTABLISHED POSITION.

7. ASKED WHAT NEXT STEP IN GOS-GOM DIALOGUE WOULD BE, SKALLI REPLIED DIALOGUE NOT BROKEN OFF, BUT NEITHER WAS THERE AGREEMENT WHEN AND HOW TO RESUME. ONE SIDE (AND SKALLI CLEARLY IMPLIED HERE HE MEANT SPAIN) WOULD HAVE TO INDICATE WILLINGNESS TO TAKE "NEW INITIATIVE." SKALLI THEN VOLUNTEERED VIEW THAT U.S. SUASION IN MADRID COULD HAVE GOOD EFFECT AT THIS JUNCTURE. WE AGREED TO REMAIN IN CLOSE TOUCH ON CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS.

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